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# VICK'S

## ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

# MAGAZINE.

DEVOTED TO THE PROFITABLE CULTURE OF FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES.

Vick Publishing Co.  
Fifty Cents Per Year.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., OCTOBER, 1896.

Volume 19, No. 12.  
New Series.

DEPARTMENT OF

### The Crocus' Soliloquy.

*Down in my solitude under the snow,  
Where nothing cheering can reach me;  
Here, without light to see how to grow,  
I'll trust to nature to teach me.*

*I will not despair, nor be idle, nor frown,  
Locked in so gloomy a dwelling;  
My leaves shall run up and my roots shall run down  
While the bud in my bosom is swelling.*

*Soon as the frost will get out of my bed,  
From this cold dungeon to free me,  
I will peer up with my little bright head;  
And all will be joyful to see me.*

*Gayly arrayed in my yellow and green,  
When to their view I have risen,  
Will they not wonder how one so serene  
Came from so dismal a prison?*

*Many, perhaps, from so simple a flower,  
This useful lesson may borrow—  
Patient today, through its gloomiest hour,  
We come out the brighter tomorrow!*

—Miss H. F. Gould.







# FREE

## Vick's Bulb Catalogue

Fall of 1896.



Full description of, and instructions when and how to plant all varieties of **Fall Bulbs** for house and outdoor culture.

Also winter flowering plants for the house.

A large variety of Strawberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, Grapes, Gooseberries, Currants, and Small Fruits of all kinds.

Seeds for Fall planting, and everything necessary for the house and garden.

This catalogue mailed free upon application. All purchasers of Bulbs last fall will receive a copy without further notice.

## ....Two Glorious Flowers....

That always give Satisfaction.

### EVERY BULB FULL OF BLOOMS

Ready to Brighten and Beautify your Homes.

#### The Stately Calla Lily....

My calla lifts its curled brim,  
No hint it gives of magic art,  
And still the odor faint and dim,  
Steals upward from its golden heart.



This most luxuriant, ornamental and showy Lily of the Nile, actually gives the most enjoyment for the money of any house plant. A half-dozen is none too many.

Grown from the fine dry bulbs which we send, it gives a series of constant surprises,—new leaves frequently, and blooming freely and constantly.

**As an Ornament to the Table they are Unsurpassed.**

We have a large stock of extra fine bulbs, which we will mail post-

paid (*delivered at your own home*), at the following low prices;

Good flowering tubers . . . . . 20 cents each; six for \$1.00

Extra strong tubers . . . . . 30 " " " 1.50

Order at once, so as to have in bloom by the time snow flies.

#### Lilium Harrisii....

The true Easter Lily of Bermuda, with its chaste beauty and grandeur, is of surpassing loveliness. The flowers are large, pure white, trumpet shaped, and unexcelled in beauty by any other known plant, while its fragrance is simply exquisite.

#### Surprise Everybody

next Easter with several pots filled with magnificent bloom. By planting in six-inch pots and starting at intervals of a few weeks a succession of bloom may be had. We will mail them, post-paid, at following prices:

Each 15 cents; six for 75 cents. Delivered at your home.



See advertisement of Choice Fall Flowering Bulbs, fourth cover.

## JAMES VICKS SONS, SEEDSMEN, ROCHESTER, N. Y.



# VICKS MAGAZINE

VOL. 19

ROCHESTER, N. Y., OCTOBER, 1896

No. 12

## THE NARCISSUS, OR DAFFODIL.

THE genus *Narcissus* is a very extensive and remarkable one, from the great diversity in the types and color of the flowers. It includes that most beautiful section known as the *Polyanthus narcissus*, the well-known Jonquil, and the several types of single and double narcissus popularly known as daffodils. The wonderful improvements in the way of new varieties has awakened an increasing interest among the lovers of the narcissus and placed the plant in the front rank of popularity, and well do the different varieties deserve all that can be said in their praise as plants for the flower border, producing, as they do, masses of gold and silver hue, and a delightful fragrance. They are equally valuable for growing in pots for winter blooming in the greenhouse or window-garden, while the cut flowers of some varieties are highly prized for bouquets and vases, and for this purpose are grown in immense quantities.

The flowers of the narcissus show in the different varieties many forms, and shades of color, ranging from pure white to deep orange, and all have most pleasing fragrance. They are easily grown, requiring no particular skill or care, and the bulbs can be planted at any time from September to December, but it is advisable to plant them as early as possible. In potting use pots proportionate to the size of the bulb, and as some of the bulbs are quite large, a single bulb will, as a rule, require a four-inch pot, and if it is desired to grow them in groups of three or more bulbs, larger pots should be used and the bulbs placed equal distances apart. In potting let the pots or pans be properly drained, and use a soil composed of two-thirds turfy loam, one-third well rotted manure, and a fair sprinkling of bone dust; mix well and use the compost rough; fill the pots with soil to within three inches of the top, then set in the bulb and fill with soil to within half an inch of the top, water thoroughly and place in a cool, dark cellar to make roots, giving water when necessary.

In about six or eight weeks after planting, or as soon as indications of a vigorous top growth are noticed, a few of the most forward can be removed to a light, sunny situation, where an average temperature of fifty degrees is maintained, giving water freely and as much fresh air as possible. Keep the plants free from dust, and remember that the flowers will last for a long time if placed in a cool temperature when fully expanded. By starting a few of the most forward into growth at different times during the winter, a continuous bloom may be enjoyed.

After the flowers have commenced to decay remove the stalks, and as soon as the foliage commences to turn yellow the supply of water should be gradually reduced and the plants removed to the cellar or placed under the greenhouse stage, where they can remain until fall and then be planted out in the mixed flower border, or the larger ones repotted for another winter's use inside. For inside use, however, I advise the purchase of a fresh supply yearly, as they can be procured at a reasonable price and the result will be much more satisfactory.

When grown in the flower border the narcissus should be given an open, sunny situation, and a deep, well enriched soil, and during the winter be heavily mulched with coarse littery manure; this mulch should be applied early in December, and gradually removed towards the end of March. In the border the bulbs do best when planted in October; they should be planted about four inches in depth and in groups of five or six, keeping them a few inches apart. Here they can remain for

four or five years without being disturbed and by that time the bulbs will commence to crowd each other, then they should be carefully taken up, divided and replanted. The bulbs can be purchased in mixed colors or in named varieties, but I consider it advisable to procure the named sorts as the cost is so little and they always produce the best results. Of the many varieties in cultivation the following are the most desirable:

ORANGE PHOENIX, or Eggs and Bacon, as it is popularly known,

is a very double, showy and distinct variety of *N. incomparabilis* aurantius. The flowers are of a soft sulphur or nearly pure white with a crimson center.

*N. BICOLOR EMPEROR*. Entire flower of the richest yellow; trumpet of immense size. The petals of the perianth measure three and one-half inches across and are so broad that they envelope.

*N. BICOLOR EMPRESS*. Perianth white and of great substance. Trumpet of rich yellow. A large and noble variety.

*N. BICOLOR HORSFIELDI*. The King of the Daffodils. Very large flowers of pure white with rich yellow trumpet. An early and free flowering species.

*N. GOLDEN SPUR*. Flowers extra large and of a rich yellow color. Early, free flowering, and a very robust variety.

*N. INCOMPARABILIS* is popularly known as the "Peerless daffodil." It has large primrose yellow flowers with a short sulphur crown.



NARCISSUS POETICUS.

N. INCOMPARABILIS FL. PL.

N. TRUMPET MAJOR.



**N. INCOMPARABILIS FL. PL.** is the popular Butter and Eggs, or Nonpareil. It has full double, rich yellow flowers with an orange center, and is as well adapted for forcing as for the open ground.

**N. INCOMPARABILIS SIR WATKIN** is the "Big Welshman," and another similar

**N. TRUMPET MAXIMUS.** "The Great Trumpet Daffodil." A grand flower, with a very large, deep yellow trumpet and long twisted outside petals.

CHAS. E. PARNELL.

*Floral Park, N. Y.*

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#### THE SEA DAFFODIL.

**T**HIS plant is one that is seldom seen in collections and not often found in catalogues, but when once seen in bloom can never be forgotten. Its beauty, purity and fragrance combine to make it one of the loveliest flowers grown.

It is catalogued by florists under two different names: *Ismene calathina* and *Pan-cratiun maritimum*; the latter name is the correct one, according to the last edition of Gray's Field, Forest and Garden Botany. But the flower itself is so beautiful that one would willingly accept it under any name.

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet," also applies in this case.

My first experience with the plant was last spring. When making out my list of wants I happened to find this plant mentioned among the novelties, and as the price was low and the description indicated an unusually lovely flower, I purchased a bulb. When it came, about the

In a week the flower stalk appeared and grew very rapidly; leaves also began to grow, but the greater part of the strength of the plant was given to the flower stalk. In just five weeks from the time of planting the bulb, the plant was in bloom. The flower stalk was about



**N. BICOLOR HORSFIELDI.**

form is the "Giant Chalice flower." These are the finest of all; the flowers measure from four to five inches in diameter, with rich sulphur outer petals and bright yellow trumpet, often tinted with orange at the base.

**N. INCOMPARABILIS STELLA.** Flowers star-shaped, three inches across; in white, with a bright yellow cup. One of the earliest and most free flowering varieties.

**N. POETICUS** is the Pheasant's Eye, or Poet's narcissus. Although one of the oldest varieties, it is the finest for all purposes. Flowers pure white with a showy orange-red ringed cup.

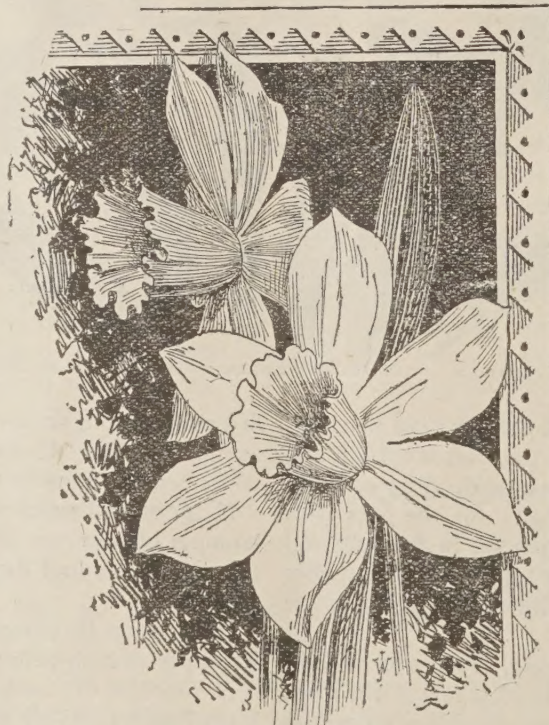
**N. POETICUS FLORE PLENUS.** The Gardenia-flowered daffodil has double, fragrant, snow-white flowers. Exquisitely scented, and should not be omitted from any collection.

**N. SCOTICUS** is the "Scotch Garland Flower," or "Large-flowering Lent Lily." Flowers large, creamy white, bright yellow trumpet, elegantly fringed and serrated.

**N. SULPHUREUS PLENUS** (Silver Phoenix). Popularly known as "Codd-lins and Cream." Has large, creamy white flowers, with a sulphury nectary. Fine for growing in pots.

**N. TELEMONIUS PLENUS.** Well known as the common double narcissus, or Von Sion daffodil. It has large, deep yellow flowers, and is familiar to all flower-lovers.

**N. TRUMPET MAJOR.** Flowers large and of a deep yellow, with long, showy trumpet. Highly prized for forcing, and is extensively used for bedding purposes.



**N. INCOMPARABILIS SIR WATKIN.**

last of April, it was a dry bulb resembling in form and size a hyacinth bulb. I potted it in a six-inch pot, in good rich soil, with the bulb half above ground; as it belongs to the amaryllis family I supposed that was the proper way, and from subsequent developments I conclude I was right.



**N. INCOMPARABILIS "GIANT CHALICE FLOWER."**

fifteen inches high, and was surmounted by two beautiful large lilies of the purest white and extremely fragrant. The form of the blossom is unlike anything I ever saw; it is trumpet shaped, somewhat resembling a large lily, but the petals reflex in a very peculiar way at the face of the flower; six of them are narrow and turn back like those of an Easter lily, while six others are wide and much shorter and turn back flat, away from the tube or throat, overlapping the narrow ones. The wide petals are ragged and look as if a pinch had been taken out of each one with the thumb and finger.

In color the blossom is a pure dazzling white outside and in, except the extreme end of the tube, which is a peculiar greenish yellow. The stamens are very large and are borne near the mouth of the flower, instead of being partly hidden in the tube like those of most trumpet flowers. The blooms are very lasting when left on the plant, and are said to be so when cut and placed in water. They are said to be like the gladiolus, in that when a stalk is cut before the buds are all open, they will continue to unfold for a week.

The sea daffodil is a summer flowering bulb, but I see no reason why it cannot be made to bloom in the house in winter as well as any other bulb which blooms so soon after its period of rest. I intend to try to force it to bloom twice each year, as many of the amaryllis family will if properly treated by alternating the periods of rest and growth as often as pos-



sible. The bulbs are not supposed to be hardy outdoors in winter except in a warm climate, but one of our best and most reliable florists advocates planting them a foot deep in sandy soil, and with proper covering he says they will live year after year. The safer way, of course, is to treat them like the gladiolus and store the bulbs in a dry, warm place over winter. I can imagine nothing handsomer than a bed of these lovely flowers, and as they are said to increase rapidly it will soon be possible to have such a bed at small cost. Z.

\* \*

#### HOME-GROWN CELERY.

**C**ELERY has become one of the most popular vegetables,—indeed at the present time no first-class table is considered complete without it. It is one of the most healthful and delicious vegetables, and it is said to be a valuable nerve food, and the demand for it is constantly increasing. At the present time celery is produced in immense quantities at Kalamazoo, Mich., and a few other localities, and shipped to all parts of the country. This has led many to believe that it could not be grown except in a few favored localities; this is a mistake, for there is scarcely a garden in the land in which good celery cannot be grown if the proper culture is given. Not only should celery be found in every private garden, but also no other crop offers as good inducements to the local market gardener for supplying the home demand. The majority of small towns depend on shipped celery for their supply, and each of these towns offers a good chance for some gardener to make money. As soon as choice home-grown celery is offered, there will be no sale for the tough, wilted, shipped stuff, and the home grower can have the market. This has been my experience. To sell readily, celery must be of good size, crisp and well blanched, washed carefully and tied up in neat bunches.

The first failure beginners generally meet with is in obtaining good plants; many fail to get a good stand of plants in the seed bed. Celery seed is small and slow in germinating, and care should be taken to thoroughly prepare the seed bed. The soil for the bed should be rich and moist, but not wet; a liberal application of hardwood ashes spread over the bed and then dug in, is good; the bed should be made level and the soil as fine as possible, and the seed sown in rows one foot apart; sow the seed rather thickly in these rows, do not cover but walk over the row with the toe of the foot, stepping upon and firming every part of the row. After the seeds are planted I place a thin mulch of straw or litter, which I know to be free of weed seeds, over the bed; this keeps the surface of the bed moist and saves watering. If too thick, thin out so that the young seedlings will stand about one-half inch apart in the row. For the

main fall and winter crop I sow the seeds about the middle of April,—I find that to be abundantly early.

Celery is generally grown as a second crop, and transplanted to its permanent position some time in June or July, and nothing is gained by sowing seed so early as to have the plants remain in the bed so long that they become overgrown or stunted.

I plant my celery on land which has grown a crop of early vegetables, such as early potatoes, peas, etc. The land should be rich,—the richer the better,—and, if obtainable, I prefer moist soil, yet good celery can be grown on any good land. I take but little stock in summer celery; our dry, hot weather generally ruins it, but we usually have sufficient rains dur-



N. GRAND SOLIEL D'OR.

ing the autumn to produce a fine crop of late celery.

I prepare the soil for planting by plowing a furrow where I wish a row, four or five feet apart, plowing as deeply as possible; this furrow I partly fill with rotted compost which is well mixed with the soil, pulling in the soil thrown out with the plow and leaving the row when finished slightly depressed, say two or three inches below the level of the ground; I consider this depressed row of great importance, the principal reason for which is that during light showers the water settles around the plants where it will do the most good. The best time for transplanting is just after a rain, but frequently one cannot wait for rain; in that case I prefer to set the plants out late in the evening. As I take the plants out of the bed I shorten the tops at least one-third; the

roots are at once dipped in a thin mud,—“puddled,” as the gardeners say,—and covered with wet cloths. A line is placed where each row is wanted and the plants set out in straight rows about six inches apart in the row, pressing the earth firmly about the roots. If the soil is any ways dry each plant should be watered, and after the water has soaked away, dry earth should be drawn up around each plant to prevent evaporation and baking of the soil. The plants should be well cultivated and the surface of the soil loose and mellow close up to the plant at all times.

As soon as the plants have attained a height of ten or twelve inches they should be “handled” in order to cause an upright growth, otherwise the stems will sprawl around over the ground and be worthless. “Handling” consists in grasping all of the stalks of the plant with one hand, and while holding them thus, pressing some soil about them with the other hand, in order to hold them erect. Afterwards more soil can be drawn about the plants with the hoe.

About this time an application of some 300 pounds of nitrate of soda to the acre, scattered around the plants and hoed in will be of great benefit. In two or three weeks the plants should be “handled” again, and if intended for winter use this will be all that is needed, for the celery will blanch after being placed in winter quarters. But for fall use the plants are to be blanched where they grow. Many devices are used for this purpose, such as boards, tiles, paper, etc., but I have found nothing equal to earth, which should be banked clear up to the top of the celery, leaving only the tips of the leaves exposed and using care to prevent soil from getting into the heart of the plant.

For keeping celery during winter for home use a cellar will answer, but if growing for market a celery house should be built. A good one can be built at little cost. Celery is prepared for market by trimming off all the outside leaves, washing carefully and tying in bunches containing one dozen stalks each,—a stalk, so-called, is one plant,

M. BENSON.

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#### CHARMER PEA.

**I** BOUGHT a pint of seed, and planted thirty-three feet of double rows. Such a yield I never beheld in peas. The vines were loaded from the ground to the top, and nearly all pods had seven to nine peas in them. The quality is not equalled by any other pea. I planted them May 3d and the peas were ready for use June 25th, while the earliest varieties led them but only a week. I do not expect to plant any other for main crop next year. Just think of it—larger, better peas than Champion of England and no sticks to set. Plant the Charmer and you will not be disappointed.

L. STEERE.

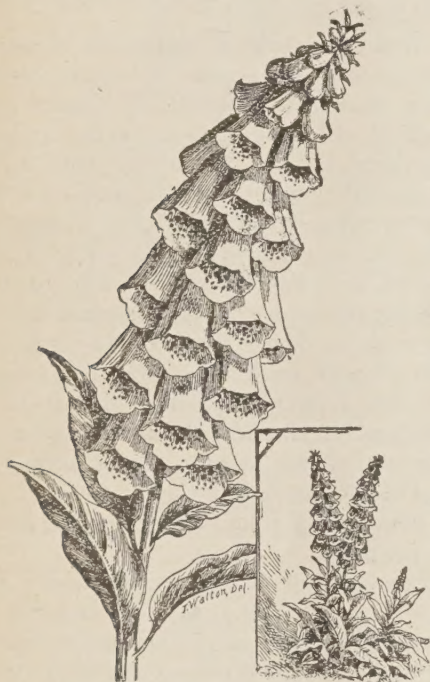
Wheatland, Wyo.



### SPRING AND SUMMER IN MY GARDEN.

**JUNE 16.** *Lychnis viscaria splendens plena* is a lovely plant, in bloom since the first days of the month. There is a dense mat of almost evergreen foliage upon the earth, the smooth, thick, shining leaves are long and narrow, and nearly erect. The leafless flower-stems rise a foot or two and bend with masses of crimson flowers which are very much of the same structure as those of the ragged robin, but the two plants are very different in habit. The ragged robin comes earlier and lasts longer. Both are beautiful plants; the foliage of *L. splendens plena* is pretty after the flowers are gone. I hardly know which is best,—it is best to have them both, I think.

The "London Pride," *Lychnis chalconica*, three feet or more high, is now showing its head of bright scarlet flowers at the summit of its tall, erect, leafy stems; few would suppose it congeneric



DIGITALIS, OR FOXGLOVE.

with the last two. It flowers a long time, seeds by the million, the young seedlings often forming a sod. The root is immortal I believe, of iron-clad hardness,—once set you will always have it. The small root becomes a large one, but it does not spread much, unless from seed. It is both bold and showy from a distance and most beautiful in detail.

The white flowers of the valerian, *Valeriana officinalis*, are still perfect, though they began in May. A native of England, it is perfectly naturalized and requires a little digging to keep it within bounds. There is a mat of early, finely cut foliage on the earth, tall, erect, almost leafless stems four feet high, covered with heads of minute white flowers very like a white centranthus, to whose family it belongs. After a while each flower develops a winged seed which does not often grow. The smell of the flowers is perceptible at some distance; it is a dung-like odor

which you may call fragrant if you like. But the smell of the root—about the same—is very pleasant to me, at least, in early spring when I first begin to dig up the fresh earth.

Beside and among the white clouds of valerian flowers the tall spines of the digitalis are blooming,—they, too, began some days ago. Thirty years ago I sent to James Vick Sr. for a packet of its seed and have had plants ever since. I supposed once that a plant would endure quite a number of years, but I now incline to hold that seedlings growing close beside the old plant will take its place so exactly as to seem perennial. However this may be, I always have lots of its flowers with no more ado than transplanting its selfsown seedlings now and then. A lady of Rhode Island wrote me that she had tried it several times without starting any, so I sent some to her. The first packet failed and I sent more the next year, with directions to broadcast it on ground that would not be disturbed until the next spring, and leave them uncovered. This time she got plants. Sow the seed in the shade of trees where the sod is rather thin; once established here each returning June will bring them as long as you live. I have only the old *purpurea*, which I partly guess is the hardiest and best. Put a little old manure around (not upon) them, late in the fall, and their spikes will be as high as your head. The drooping corollas are a tube two inches long, red outside, paler and heavily spotted within. The outside is what you see from a distance; the buds are red long before they open. Now and then I have a white or very pale pink flowered plant from the red seed; I have one now.

**JUNE 17th.** Today the coral lily, *Lilium tenuifolium*, is in bloom for the first time in my garden; my expectations were high but they are more than realized. Last year was its first season with me, but it didn't flower; the frost of May 12th may have killed its buds, though its leaves were not hurt. The flowers are larger and the stem stouter than I supposed. The flowers hang gracefully and their color is wonderful,—a burning intensity of scarlet never before seen in a lily, or any other flower, I had almost said,—the same inside and out, the petals rolling back toward the stem. The flower is two inches across when fully reflexed,—three or so before this is done; the stamens are long and large. And all this splendor of color and perfection of form can be had as easily as one can grow an onion from an onion set,—easier, in fact, for the onions must be planted anew every year, while the lily is perennial. No offsets are yet in sight, but they will come, perhaps, in time. The soil was the roadside, never plowed or worked in any way until the bed was made by digging off the sod and putting on an inch or two of barn-

yard scrapings (part dirt); the winter protection was a big snow drift. The fall is a good time to plant it.

Mrs. Susan Tucker in a late Magazine spoke of a red chard beet "which may have been a sport, but was very handsome," or to that effect. Let her send for the Scarlet-ribbed Chilian, the Yellow-ribbed Chilian and the Dracena-leaved beet and she will get "sports" that are entirely in earnest. The first two do not come very true from seed; I had white, pink, green, orange, purple, and nearly black, besides the advertised colors. They are good to eat, I believe as any of the chards, and the colors are beautiful. The Dracena-leaved has a long root, like a blood beet, and is a curious thing.

Now comes the blossoms of the butterfly milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*. I said of this plant last year that its stems were recumbent, so a few roots would cover the ground; but age and strength, I see now, cause a more erect growth. Still there are many stems from one root and all branch at the summit, so there is a vast difference in habit between it and the



ASCLEPIAS TUBEROSA.

common silkweed, or milkweed, *Asclepias cornuti*. What looks like a single head or umbel of flower buds when the stem is young, divides by the extension of branches into a dozen heads, spreading a foot or more. A geranium is pretty, but we get into a habit of seeing geraniums and they at length do not greatly move us. "Ah, yes, I see now it is distinct," etc. But a rarity like the *Asclepias* attracts everyone's attention, and the richness of its orange tint, like the scarlet of *Lilium tenuifolium*, is not readily described, it must be seen.

E. S. GILBERT.

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### ASTERS FAILING.

A number of complaints have been published the past summer in regard to asters failing,—apparently dying without cause, although only a short time before the plants were growing, and apparently healthy. The failures take place in July and August. A writer in a late number of the *American Florist* claims that poor soil, combined with a lack of water, is the cause. The plants should not be grown in the same place year after year, but if it is compulsory to do so, enrich with stable manure, ashes and commercial fertilizers.



## Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK.

### Slugs.

Will you kindly tell me through the Magazine how I can rid my garden of slugs? If after my plants are up this fall, I dig in lime pretty thoroughly will that clear them out for next year? MRS. D. W.

A good dressing of lime will diminish the number of slugs. Salt also will kill them if they come in contact with it, and this may be applied to the ground until it looks pretty white, and will be of some benefit. Bran wet up with water and mixed with arsenic or Paris green and scattered about, will prove a destructive bait to slugs. If there is any danger of birds getting it, it might be placed about in a number of places and be protected by a little netting over each spot. Some slices of potato could be poisoned and would attract the slugs.

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### Brugmansia Leaves Eaten.

You so kindly invite questions, and answer them so helpfully, that I would like to ask whether you can give me any advice in regard to a plant of brugmansia which I have had about three years. The plant grows readily, but in both winter and summer, in my little conservatory, the leaves are constantly eaten. I have never been able to discover any creature on the leaves. The holes eaten are irregular in shape, sometimes on the edge and sometimes in the middle of the leaf. Fungus has been suggested and I have used sulphur and tobacco water, *i. e.*, water in which tobacco stems have been boiled, but the eating goes on. Of course the plant has had no flowers. Is there any cure for it? MRS. D. F. G.

Norwich, Conn.

Paris green and water sprinkled on the leaves might protect them, but we are unable to offer, with positiveness, any helpful suggestions in this case, not knowing the cause of the trouble named. If any of our readers have had a similar experience with this plant and can explain the matter, it would be a pleasure to hear from them.

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### Mint.—Chinese Matrimony Vine.

1—What is the botanical name of the mint that is used for mint sauce?

2—Can the seeds or roots be procured of you?

3—I have a Chinese matrimony vine three years old,—a strong, healthy vine, but it does not blossom at all; what is the reason? It is in a somewhat shady situation, yet gets a great deal of sunshine. It freezes almost to the ground every year; last year it was laid down in hemlock boughs, but froze just the same. What treatment should be given it for winter? Bradford, Vt.

A. E. B.

2—The plant is *Mentha viridis*, the well known spearmint.

2—Seedsmen do not usually keep either seeds or roots of this plant in stock, as it is widely disseminated already, and there is but little demand for it. In almost every community there is at least one garden where it can be found, and the plant may frequently be found growing wild in damp soils, as it is a hardy perennial.

3—Apparently the Chinese matrimony vine is not sufficiently hardy in the locality of our inquirer. It cannot bloom if it freezes down every winter.

### Peony.—Hydrangea—Rose.

All my plants and seeds which I purchased last spring are doing well, even better than I expected, except my Chinese peony, *Comte de Paris*. At first it seemed to do well; its stalks grew to about twelve inches high, but for quite a while back it has been drying up. Please inform me whether it is its nature to do so or not. It had no blossoms this year.

My hydrangea has grown nicely; it has at present, August 12th, six large bunches of blossoms. It has been in blossom for quite a while, but the flowers are still white,—perhaps they do not turn pink the first year, or do they?

I am more than pleased with the little rose, *Coquette des Alpes*; it has two or three lovely blossoms on it so far and it looks as though there are more buds coming. M. B. D.

Langenheim, Ill.

The peony should have kept its foliage green and perfect until destroyed by frost. It is probable that something has injured the root. It would be well to examine by carefully digging down until the root is reached, but without disturbing it to any great extent. With care this can be done and the condition of the root learned. It may be that the root is already dead.

The hydrangea blooms change their color in the latter part of the season.

*Coquette des Alpes* will be apt to prove a satisfactory rose.

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### Onions for Early Crop.

1—Is the Early Red Globe a productive onion?

2—How does it compare with Red Wethersfield for size?

3—How does the Extra Early Flat Red compare with Wethersfield for size and productiveness?

4—Would either of these onions make a profitable crop for early marketing? If not, state which variety would make an early crop for profit.

5—Is the California Globe Danvers as early as Red Globe? MRS. M. E. W.

Klaus, I. T.

1—The Early Red Globe is considered a satisfactorily productive variety.

2—Grown under the same conditions the Early Red Globe and the Red Wethersfield would average about the same in weight.

3—Extra Early Flat Red is very much smaller than Red Wethersfield and not so productive.

4—Either the Early Red Globe or the Extra Early Flat Red might produce profitable crops. They would not yield as much to the acre as the Wethersfield, but as a rule the earlier varieties bring a better price and may be as profitable as the later ripening and heavier yielding varieties.

5—The California Globe Danvers is not as early as the Red Globe.

++

### Sweet Peas and Spiders.

I bought of you a half pound package of mixed sweet pea seed. I planted the seed in a double row about forty feet long; had an eight-foot wire screen for them to run on,—I planted them the last of March and they are nearly to the top. I have not only had sweet peas for myself, but for all my neighbors and friends who visited me,—it seems to me I have picked bushels. We have had quite a dry spell and I noticed last week that my peas were dying out, and on examining them closely I found the cause: They are simply encased in a fine white web, with millions of tiny spiders. If it was not for the web you would very likely overlook the spiders, at least a great many amateurs would. I have tried several remedies, but nothing seems to do any good. Will you please inform me what to do if they are attacked in like manner next season? MRS. H. A. S.

Kansas City, Mo.

The dry weather was favorable to the great increase of the spiders. A visitation of this kind is quite uncommon. It may not occur next year, as the conditions may not again be favorable. But if there should be a similar drought the spiders might appear. It appears that the preparation of the soil had been so

thorough that the pea vines were not greatly affected by the dry weather, and on the occurrence of rain they would again be ready to make more growth and bloom. Another season it would be well to be prepared with a good garden syringe; with this implement the vines could be sprayed morning and night, throwing water in a fine spray upon the foliage; with such treatment the spiders would be checked and probably would do little or no harm. The provision named would be the ounce of prevention—and pounds of cure would be ineffectual.

++

### How to Help the Orchards.

As the apple orchards are now bearing a heavy crop of fruit, can anything be done to help them bear another crop next year?

It is late in the season to make this inquiry. It would undoubtedly have been better for the apple orchards if a large amount of the fruit had been removed, and none the worse for the orchardist. It is not improbable that if half the fruit had been removed in June the number of bushels at gathering-time might not be fewer,—the increased size of the fruit balancing the quantity removed. It may be said that in this case the burden of the trees would be the same. In weight this is true, but not in the same properties. The great draft upon a fruit tree is the production of seeds, and even if the same weight be produced by one-half the number of fruits, the demand on the strength of the tree is little more than half as much. By thus lessening the demand upon the trees, by thinning out the fruit, a crop the following year could be more confidently expected. However, not one orchard in a hundred has been thinned, and, now, what can be done to help the trees for another year? The only practical thing to do is to give a good dressing of manure and plow it in lightly. Young trees will require a less amount of nitrogen than those of middle age or older. Many old orchards are bearing so heavily that there is danger that the crop of this year will very seriously check them unless they are well assisted with some suitable fertilizer. If stable manure is employed two tons to the acre will not be too much for a heavily bearing orchard, and one ton for a young orchard. If commercial fertilizers are employed, use for the nitrogen element from fifty to 100 pounds of nitrate of soda for newly bearing and old orchards respectively; for the phosphoric acid element use from 300 to 600 pounds of bone meal, or 200 to 400 pounds dissolved bone meal or bone black, or 250 to 500 pounds of dissolved rock. For the potash element use from 100 to 250 pounds of muriate or sulphate of potash, or 400 to 800 pounds of kainit; or 1,000 to 2,000 pounds of unleached wood ashes.

## HALL'S Vegetable Sicilian HAIR RENEWER

Will restore gray hair to its youthful color and beauty—will thicken the growth of the hair—will prevent baldness, cure dandruff, and all scalp diseases. A fine dressing. The best hair restorer made.

R. P. Hall & Co., Props., Nashua, N. H.  
Sold by all Druggists.





ROCHESTER, N. Y., OCTOBER, 1896.

Entered in the Post Office at Rochester, N. Y., as second class mail matter.

*Vick's Monthly Magazine* is published at the following rates, either for old or new subscribers.

These rates include postage:

One copy one year, in advance, Fifty Cents.

One copy twenty-seven months (two and one-fourth years), full payment in advance, One Dollar.

A Club of Five or more copies, sent at one time, at 40 cents each, without premiums. Neighbors can join in this plan.

**Free Copies.**—One free copy additional will be allowed to each club of ten (in addition to all other premiums and offers), if spoken of at the time the club is sent.

All contributions and subscriptions should be sent to Vick Publishing Co., at Rochester, N. Y.

#### ADVERTISING RATES.

\$1.25 per agate line per month; \$1.18 for 3 months, or 200 lines; \$1.12 for six months, or 400 lines; \$1.06 for 9 months, or 600 lines; \$1.00 for 1 year, or 1000 lines. One line extra charged for less than five.

All communications in regard to advertising to Vick Publishing Co., New York office, 38 Times Building, H. P. Hubbard, Manager.

**200,000**

Average Monthly Circulation.

#### Sweet Pea, Bride of Niagara.

In the latter part of August we had the pleasure to show through our plot of sweet pea, Bride of Niagara, Mr. Arnold, seed grower and florist, who is especially interested in sweet pea culture, and raises all the varieties which are in greatest demand. He was greatly pleased with the healthy appearance of the plants and their abundant blooming habit, and particularly the large proportion of double flowers produced. Taking home with him a handful of sprays of the flowers, he afterwards informed us that he compared them with those on his own grounds, some of the best named varieties. He found that the single flowers of the Bride had broader banners than any of the other named varieties, while the double flowers will measure two inches across.

A few of these flowers were handed, by the writer, a few days since, to a lady who can appreciate a good flower when she sees it. She had no knowledge of the existence of this double variety, and before having time to notice the extra number of petals, but perceiving the large size of the flowers, she exclaimed instantly, "Enormous!" This expression fully characterizes their size, and does better than a thousand words.

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#### What has the Harvest been?

We have received some excellent reports in regard to the earliness and the quality of the Leader tomato, and we have also received some stating that it was not satisfactory. Undoubtedly some trials of it have been made under unfavorable conditions and the results have not been as desired. This new variety of

tomato has been claimed to be the earliest as well as the most productive. If those who have tested it will take a little trouble and write to us, giving their experience with it, they will do a service to the whole community, as we are anxious to know how it has behaved, and to publish the results of this season's trials.

In regard to this matter of new varieties, our readers, we hope, will understand that reports by them on any kind of novelties are always acceptable. It is only by means of such reports that correct public opinion can be formed.

More reports in regard to the Columbian raspberry are still desired, although the excellencies of this fruit are now pretty well established. What is particularly desirable to know about it, is how it has succeeded in the Southern States,—say in South Carolina and thence southward and in the Gulf States. How has it behaved in Texas and Florida?

It is too early yet to receive any reports about the Rathbun blackberry from those who planted it this spring in different localities, but in the spring it will be interesting to know how it has wintered. We hope to receive many reports in regard to the tests of all new things, whether flowers, vegetables or fruits.

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#### The Rathbun Blackberry.

This variety compared with the Erie proves to be very much larger. A common quart strawberry basket of the fruit of each of these varieties was placed in the hands of a wholly disinterested party, Mr. Lawson York, ex-postmaster of Smith's Mills, N. Y., with a request to count and report the number of berries in each basket. When he had done so, the number reported of each was as follows: Erie 164 berries, Rathbun 45 berries. One of these berries of the Rathbun, measured before witnesses, was found to be one and three-fourths inches in length and one and three-eighths in diameter. One of the fine features of this fruit is that it holds its large size to the latest pickings.

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#### Irrigation Congress.

The Fifth National Irrigation Congress is to be held in the city of Phoenix, Arizona, December 15, 16 and 17, 1896. The railroads have named a rate not to exceed one fare the round trip from Chicago and all points west. The programme includes speeches and the reading of papers by men eminent in their professions on the following subjects: Irrigation in Humid America; Water Storage in the Mountain States; Pumping or Storing Water on the Plains; Relation of Forests to Water Supply; State Control of Water; Sensible Climate; Immigration into the Arid Regions; Soils; Artesian Wells; International Irrigation Questions.

Full information in regard to all points

in connection with the Congress can be obtained by writing in regard to the same to C. M. Heintz, Secretary National Executive Committee, 218 North Main street, Los Angeles, Cal.

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#### Leader Tomato.

We desire to call the attention of our readers especially to the account given by S. L., of the Leader tomato, in his communication entitled "A Wyoming Garden," on page 188 of this number. Its earliness, with its other good qualities, makes it particularly valuable in northern regions and in elevated localities. And for the same reasons it is very desirable wherever it is an advantage to bring this crop in early, both in private and in market gardens. In the *Rural New Yorker* of August 22d, of this year, the editor says:

"Plants of the tomato, Vicks' Early Leader (seeds from James Vick's Sons,) were set in the field June 10th. They gave us our first ripe tomatoes,—first among over 200 kinds. They are of medium or a little below medium size."

\*\*\*

#### Vick's Branching Aster.

The pink variety of this aster has found as many admirers as did the white when it was introduced. The soft tone of color is very pleasing, and the form of the flowers, with their long, wavy petals, is captivating at sight. The white and pink varieties of the Branching Aster are quite equal to the very best chrysanthemums of these shades, and come at a season in advance of the latter and when there is a scarcity of flowers generally. The culture of both of them will be largely increased in the future, and those who have not tried them should make a note of them as "must haves" for another year.

\*\*\*

#### Some New Varieties.

A considerable part of my enjoyment is obtained by experimenting with flowers, fruits and vegetables. In all my experimenting I cannot, perhaps, put up a more favorable report of any than the following: Vick's Early Leader tomato, Charmer pea, Maggie Murphy potato, Danish Ballhead cabbage, Perry's Hybrid Sugar corn, Vick's Ideal cauliflower; New Branching aster, dahlia Ethel Vick, calliopsis Golden Wave. Those who have not already planted these should begin next year. They will more than satisfy.

Wheatland, Wyo.

L. STREER.

## Fall

Medicine is fully as important and beneficial as Spring Medicine. The system now needs toning up and the blood must be pure, rich and full of vitality in order to avoid sickness. The best Fall Medicine is

## Hood's Sarsaparilla

The best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.

**Hood's Pills** cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.





#### A PRETTY COTTAGE.

HERE is a very pretty little cottage, which has an attractive appearance from all sides. The plans show a compact arrangement, while convenience has been the first consideration in the designing. Success in this, combined with a neat, well proportioned exterior, gives us a combination which goes to make it attractive to all, and suitable for erection anywhere. For a person of moderate means wishing a pleasant home, with the interior comforts and conveniences it contains, we can with confidence recommend this design. It is quite modern and contains a fair share of the modern conveniences.

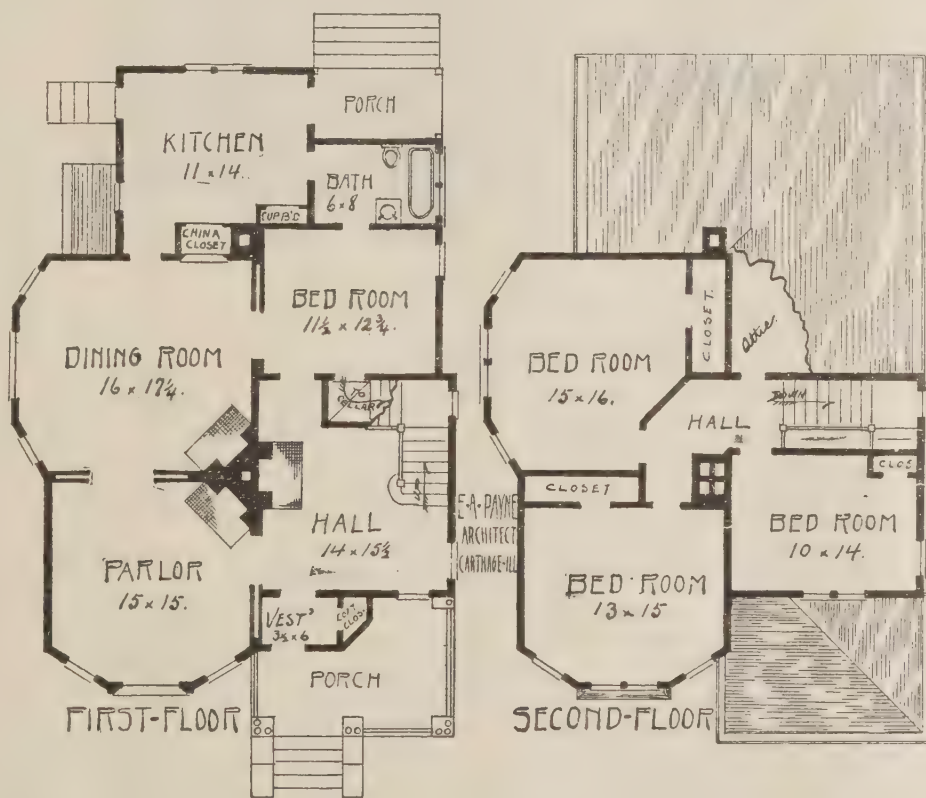
There is a cellar under the whole house. The foundation walls are of stone and above the foundation the building is of wood. In the first story are handsome porches which well protect the entrances. From the front porch you pass through the vestibule to the stair hall, thence into the parlor, bed room, or second story. To the rear of the parlor is the dining room, and back of this the kitchen.

The parlor, hall and dining room are connected by wide sliding doors, enabling

them to be thrown together on occasion. The parlor and dining room have beautiful bay fronts, which add to the cheerfulness of the rooms. There are also open fireplaces with pretty mantles in these rooms and the hall. The china closet between the kitchen and dining room opens from both sides. The base shelf

from the front hall, and being of a very pretty design, make an attractive feature to this room. The landing on the second floor is a small hall, from which are accessible the three bed rooms.

The dimensions are 36x46 feet over all, except front porch and steps. The height of the first story is nine feet six inches, and of the second story eight feet six inches. The outside walls are sheathed and papered, and finished with half-inch siding. Painting and plastering three coats. The house is trimmed throughout the first story in cypress wood, and the second story in white pine, all with natural finish. The house is of the best construction, using only good materials and workmanship. The house has been built complete in Illinois for \$1,500, and would probably cost from this sum to \$2,000 in most localities. This cottage is very suitable for a medium-sized family



is two feet six inches high, and above this the closet is shelved to a height of eight feet six inches. Below the base shelf, on the kitchen side, is a locker or pot closet, and on the dining room side is a case of drawers.

The stairs to the second story lead up

as a village or suburban residence. If it should be desired, the lower bed room might be arranged, with a slight change allowing more light, to serve as a library, a clergyman's study, or as a physician's office, for either of which purposes it is well situated in relation to the hall.



## THE WINTER WINDOW-GARDEN.



HERE is no other one thing in the range of household art that is as decorative, or as calculated to call forth pleasurable emotions, as choice plants for room decoration. Whether one keeps house or boards, these live, growing things have much to do in giving the home-like atmosphere that the wise woman considers the acme of housewifely accomplishment. Attractive in themselves at all times, in the dead of winter, when all nature is shrouded in snow, cold and drear, they become by contrast doubly beautiful.

Fortunate is the woman with a greenhouse or bay window of her own. She may have a veritable summer in winter, if she will. All of us cannot have these, but any of us, if our rooms are not freezing cold, can have a windowful of brightness if we will.

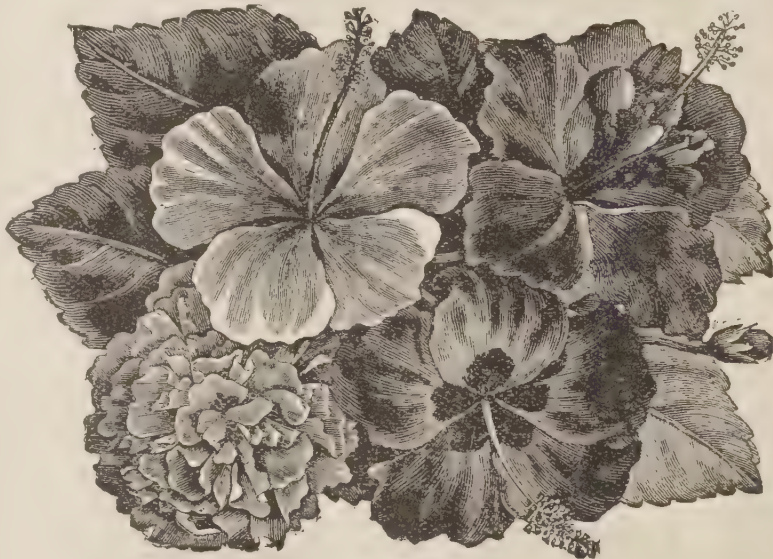
These autumn days remind us that what we intend doing in the way of window gardening must be done quickly. Some wait until winter is really at hand, then purchase a few plants in full bloom from the florist. Nine times out of ten this fails to prove satisfactory. Usually the winter temperature of the living room is higher than that of the greenhouse, and there is much less light. House plants are always sensitive to a sudden change in their surroundings. Often these winter-purchased plants drop every flower bud, and rarely indeed will new buds be produced until the plant has taken a considerable time to adjust itself to its new conditions. Get your plants now, and accustom them to their new quarters before the more trying days of winter come, with their furnace-heated atmosphere.

If either a beginner or a busy housewife, do not clutter up your windows with three times the number of plants that you know how or can find time to care for; one good plant, well tended, is worth a half-dozen sickly, more-dead-than-alive specimens. Use judgement as to what you will bring to your windows. Do you prefer stately foliage to flowers? Then palms, musas, and rubber plants (*Ficus elastica*) are what you want, although we might whisper that a single good specimen of any one of these will cost as much as a dozen ordinary flowering plants, while a small one will be of no decorative value whatever. A large, finely developed specimen is indeed grand, and if the pocket-book can afford it, should be included in every scheme of plant decoration.

Do you wish flowers? If so, let alone the roses, calceolarias, carnations, heliotropes and fuchsias, which need expert treatment to bring winter flowers, and get instead some of those sure bloomers that thrive with little care. Among the best of these are the abutilon, cyclamen, petunia, Chinese primrose, and geranium. Of these the geranium needs the sunniest shelf, and the primrose the shadiest. There are other plants almost as good as these, that will stand the vicissitudes of the ordinary living-room, but those mentioned are the leading families in the ever-blooming class. If the atmosphere is at all times, by night as well as by day, safely above the sense of chill, flowering begonias will be found fully as valuable as those plants first named. They should be given a shady seat by the primroses.

Besides these, a window can hardly be considered equipped for winter bloom without a few hyacinths and narcissus, so lovely and fragrant are they and so certain to do well.

LORA S. LAMANCE.



CHINESE HIBISCUS.

## THE CHINESE HIBISCUS.

WHY is there not more written in praise of the Chinese hibiscus, and why do we not more often see specimens in collections? Their foliage alone should give them a sunny place in the window and in a plant-lover's affections. These plants grow rapidly, forming large shrubs with thick, glossy, dark green leaves; in some varieties, notably *H. Dennisoni*, the leaves are bullated; *H. Cooperi* has foliage beautifully marbled with pink, white and green. *H. subviolaceus* is, perhaps, the finest of all, bearing a flower four or five inches in diameter; the same plant will produce flowers that are double, semi-double, and occasionally a single one; the color is almost impossible to describe, so many shades are blended in a single petal, delicate pink shading to crimson, with here and there touches of violet. The variety *General de Courtigis* has a large single flower, of pure unshaded scarlet, with an exquisite satin-like texture. The flowers of *H. schizopetalous* are pendant, the

narrow, fringed petals reflexed; color red and yellow. *H. chrysanth* has large single flowers of canary yellow, with a dark brown spot at base of petals.

The above are only a few among the many varieties, all of which are well worth cultivating. Any good potting soil suits them, though after they are well established the richer the soil the better they grow. They must be given rather large pots, as a thrifty plant has many large, fibrous roots that quickly fill the pot and exhaust the soil.

The hibiscus, if left to itself, will form a somewhat straggling specimen, but it takes kindly to pruning, and a little pinching back of rampant shoots and pruning out unsightly ones will soon force the shrub into a graceful and symmetrical form. As soon as the buds appear liquid manure should be given at least once a week, and as the roots take a great deal of water, care must be taken that they do not dry out. The plants commence to bloom when only a few inches high and have a long blooming period; they are excellent winter bloomers if given a warm, sunny window, but after months of continuous bloom they will demand a rest, and no amount of coaxing will then induce growth of leaf or flower. It is better, then, to favor this period of rest by removing the plant to a shady place and water sparingly. As soon as it shows signs of new growth, repot, and again give warmth and the full sunlight; the plant will quickly push out its beautiful new leaves and brilliant flowers.

Plants of hibiscus are fine for bedding out or piazza display in summer and are easily wintered in the cellar if not wanted in the window, though anyone who once makes the acquaintance of this family will want at least one member in sight the year round.

I. McROSS.

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## ROSE CULTURE.

*Concluded from page 181.*

*Duplicates.*—The most special thing to guard against in rose showing is having duplicates. Having two roses of the same kind in a box is fatal, however good all the rest may be. This causes a difficulty in judging, as some few roses are extremely alike. It is even possible that thus an injustice may be done. At South Kensington once I had obtained a first prize, the judging was over, the prize card was up, and I had gone away quite unsuspectingly. When I came back I found the prize given to the second box, and my own disqualified. I had noticed my neighbor taking a deep interest in my roses. He selected one



which was wrongly labeled and declared it was a duplicate. Some of the N. R. S. committee, whom he got together, agreed with him, and the judges' decision was overruled. In point of fact, it was not Earl of Pembroke as I had mistakenly labeled it, but Marie Rady, which sometimes is almost undistinguishable from Marie Baumann, a bloom of which I had already in the box. The case was considered unsatisfactory, and at a following committee meeting it was decided that there must be no such going behind the decision of the judges for the future.

*Fair Play.*—After a somewhat lengthened experience, I should say that no contests are conducted more fairly than rose shows. The judges take great pains and are absolutely impartial. The exhibitors, so far as I have seen, are scrupulously fair to one another. I know but one instance of roses being offered to a man to show as his own,—and in that instance they were refused. Such a case as Dean Hole mentions I never came across, though of course it is quite possible. I will quote it as he gives it in his famous Rose Book:

"I remember, some years ago, just as we had commenced our survey as judges at one of the provincial shows, an exhibitor appeared, hot, and out of breath, and 'begged pardon, but he had left a knife among his roses.' He had a magnificent rose in his coat, and, 'from information I had received,' I thought it my duty to watch his movements without appearing to do so. He left the tent with a much smaller rose in his buttonhole, and I went immediately to his boxes. There was the illustrious stranger, resplendent, but with a fatal beauty. The cunning one had hoisted himself with his own petard, for he had forgotten another bloom of the same rose in his twenty-four, and I at once wrote 'Disqualified for duplicates' upon his exhibition card."

#### ROSES IN PARTICULAR.

I conclude with a few remarks on "Roses in Particular,"—i. e., my own special favorites, and those which I recommend. I shall follow, in my remarks, the divisions of the new N. R. Society's catalogue. It begins with exhibition roses; but this is by far too wide a field for me to enter on. Mr. Mawley's excellent rose selection list, which appears every autumn in the *Journal of Horticulture*, will here be the best guide. I have already indicated some of my aversions and admittations. I will only say one thing—that few varieties, and half a dozen of each of the best, will be found far more useful than ten times as many all of different sorts. Marie Baumann, A. K. Williams, Mrs. J. Laing, are perhaps the three most useful of H. P.s; and Maréchal Niel, The Bride, and Souvenir d'Elise Vardon, the three most reliable for the tea classes. I am only advising quite small exhibitors. Have a few, and all good ones; and keep in touch with all advances. Have a hobby

and ride it judiciously. Happy is the man that has a hobby.

*Hybrid Teas* are not in general good exhibition roses, having hardly sufficient substance, though in this very class Captain Christy and La France are the perfection of garden roses, and will sometimes stand very well in the box. Lady Mary Fitzwilliam is a very good show rose; Gustave Regis is pretty in the bud and for the garden. Of the Bourbons, Mrs. Paul and Souvenir de Malmaison will suffice. Of the Hybrid Chinas, Madame Plantier, which makes into a splendid bush of short-lived white blossoms. Of the Briars, Austrian and Harrisoni. Of the Sweet Briars, Meg Merrilies and Lady Penzance. Of the Banksias, the double yellow for cutting, and the double white for perfume. The single yellow is pretty and slightly scented, the single white to be avoided.

*Climbing Roses.*—I have already mentioned climbing roses. Some of the Noisettes in this class are excellent. Reine Marie Henriette (the red Gloire) was perhaps the best red until the rise of Crimson Rambler. Gloire de Dijon, and its large progeny, especially Madame Berard, may safely be planted.

The lines of Mr. P. M. James may fairly, I think, be accepted to form my finish:

A rose looked in a window

One bleak November morn;

'Twas a lingering ray of sunshine,  
The wreck of the year to adorn.

The beauty and grace of the flower

Shed gladness and joy through the room,  
And the rose, looking in at the window,  
Dispelled November's gloom.

There's a rose looking in at the window

In every condition of life;

In days of content and enjoyment,  
In hours with bitterness rife.

Where'er there's a smile of a woman,

As bright as a beam from above,

'Tis the rose looking in at the window,  
And filling the dwelling with love.

Alan Cheales, in *Journal of Horticulture*.

\*.\*

#### POISONING CUT WORMS.

The use of bran and arsenic, or Paris green wet up with sweetened water or molasses and water, to destroy wire worms and cutworms, has already been recommended in our pages. In a late number of the *Rural New Yorker*, Mr. F. Hodgman tells of the result of its use by a neighbor to whom he recommended it. He was applied to by a neighbor who said his ground was full of cutworms that had destroyed nearly all of his first plantings, and were then busier than ever.

"Last night," said he, "they cut down forty out of 300 tomato plants that we set yesterday."

"But why don't you stop them?"

"We can't; there are too many of them. All we can do is not a drop in the bucket."

"Have you tried Paris green?"

"No, I never heard of using it for cutworms. How do you do it?"

"Wet some bran, putting in a little molasses to sweeten it, and put the Paris green in that. Scatter the bran on the ground infested by the worms. I have never had occasion to try it, but those who have say that the worms will eat it in preference to the plants, and will be destroyed."

"I will go straight home and try it." And he did. Ten days later, he called on me again.

"I have come to tell you that bran and Paris green work to a charm; they will save me hundreds of dollars this year. I went right home and fixed some as you told me, scattered it about among a part of my tomatoes and cabbages, and, having a little left, I put it on two rows of onions. It stopped the worms right then and there. Not another plant was taken where I used it, while the rest were just mowed down. The two rows of onions were left untouched, while those adjoining were taken. The only mistake was in not putting it on all my garden to start with. I fixed that as soon as I found out how it worked. I have time to get a crop yet, though, of course, the earliest and most profitable crop is nearly lost."

Then he adds: But I came near forgetting what seems to me a very important point regarding the use of Paris green with bran and molasses, which I have not seen mentioned elsewhere, and that is, that it is likely to prove equally effective against other insect pests besides the cutworms, if used at the proper time. This same neighbor about whom I have been writing, came to me recently, and, while discussing his experience with the poison, said, "There is another thing about that bran and Paris green: We have lost a great many cabbages of late years by a maggot in the root. You remember that I told you about our putting it on part of a cabbage patch. Where we used it we have not lost a cabbage by the maggot, and where we did not use it they are nearly all destroyed. We think that the poison was put there just in time to catch the insect which lays the egg, with the result that she did not lay any eggs. Another year we shall use it on our whole garden, and keep it there as long as necessary."

It seems to me that this man's experience points toward a much wider field for the use of insecticides than has, heretofore, been considered possible.

### Do you ride a wheel?

#### Do you want a Cyclometer?

Every wheelman should have one,—and would if it did not cost too much. We have made arrangements to supply your needs. Think of a Cyclometer that will register every mile or fraction thereof up to 10,000 miles and then repeat, for only \$1, or

Vicks Magazine for one year and this Cyclometer for \$1.20.

Cyclometer can be attached to any wheel.

Vick Pub'g Co., Rochester, N. Y.



## A WYOMING GARDEN.

THERE are many conditions here in Wyoming which are entirely new and novel to an eastern planter. Having arrived here late in April I was not in time to get anything started early, so that my own experiments this year are not satisfactory, regarding some varieties at least. But I will mention some plants which are suitable, with irrigation, for western plains, elevated 4,000 feet and more.

## VEGETABLES.

Potatoes make a fine crop and are easily grown. Beans are excellent in all varieties but the late pole, which cannot be matured. Sweet corn, of the Cory, Marblehead and Minnesota, has been good this summer; Evergreen may mature yet before frost,—it is just in tassel now (August 15th); Perry's Hybrid is doing well, and I make this my main crop, as its quality is superior to any other grown; I raised it for some time in the east and would advise all to plant largely of it in any section where corn can be grown at all. Peas never grew better; I had the Charmer this year and I think it the finest I ever ate; I do not expect to plant any other variety next year, except some Extra Early; the Charmer yields enormously, far ahead of anything I have ever seen, and in quality is just as superior as it is in yield. Beets, turnips, radishes and lettuce have been a success in every respect. The same may be said of cabbage; the Danish Ballhead has grown splendidly. Melons and cucumbers do well, but care must be exercised in starting, and also in irrigating them. I expect to test varieties not mentioned here, another year, and will then have a report to make concerning them.

The tomato is something which is difficult to grow and mature here, not alone because the season is somewhat shorter than at a lower altitude (we are higher above the sea than the top of Mt. Washington) but the altitude itself seems to be a drawback to their successful culture; I have been looking at plants which were started in early March in a hotbed, yet the fruits are not ripening at present and probably will not for two weeks yet; I planted Vick's Early Leader on April 27th and the fruit is already ripe and I shall no doubt have a full crop from the vines, as they are loaded with fine, smooth tomatoes which will all ripen by September 1st, and I do not apprehend a frost before that date. It is the earliest and quickest growing tomato I have ever seen, and I consider it a variety of sterling merit. Its quality is among the best, which cannot be said of any other extra early variety.

## FLOWERS.

I have hardly had a fair chance to test even annuals, having arrived too late in the season to get them properly started; However, the following have done well, some exceptionally so:

Petunia, phlox, Shirley poppy, calliopsis (the Golden Wave is one of the finest annuals I have ever grown), sweet peas, snapdragon (never had better), centaurea, morning glory, salpiglossis, scabiosa, nasturtium, Japan pinks. With no more than these one can have a fine display all summer, though I hope to be able to report favorably on a larger number next year. As to the hardy perennials, shrubs, roses, and bedding plants, I have had no opportunity to note any such at all. Another year I shall make a test of all I can lay hands on, and your readers who live along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains may look for a report on the same.

Wheatland, Wyo.

S. L.

## SPRING TREATMENT OF STRAWBERRIES.

The following description of raising large crops of fine strawberries is given by Mr. J. M. Smith, in *Horticulture*, as the method which he has worked out for himself, and put it to a practical test for a number of years, with the best results:

"The covering should be left on until the ground is done freezing in the spring. One of the greatest benefits of winter covering is the protection given to the plants during the early spring, when the ground freezes more or less nearly every night and thaws during the day. During this process the land becomes what we call honey-combed, or, in other words, in freezing the top of it rises somewhat from its natural position, and in doing so either starts the roots of the plants from their place, or breaks them off a short distance beneath the surface of the soil; either one of which would be fatal to a large crop of fruit. Hence I leave the covering upon mine until the plants have started beneath it.

"After removing the covering go over the beds and destroy every weed and blade of grass that has escaped notice. Put on a good covering of well rotted manure, say fifteen or twenty loads per acre, or, if you can get it, fifty to seventy-five bushels of unleached ashes per acre. If the ashes have been leached use double the amount. I have almost invariably found it necessary to go through my beds twice during the spring before the picking commences, and occasionally three times. The bed should be kept free of weeds at any cost.

"Both plants and berries need the sun to enable them to do their best. If, after all other work is done, I find that the crop promises to be an extra large one, I often put on an additional coat of manure, or if I have used manure in the early spring, put on ashes for the second fertilizer. This will aid the late berries in keeping their size and firmness, and thus add much to the value of the crop.

"During the picking season we sometimes have a very dry time, and unless we

can water the beds artificially much of our time and labor will be lost. For a number of years past we have had no vines out of the reach of artificial watering. I find one thorough wetting much better than two or three sprinklings. As regards the amount of expense that may be incurred for this purpose, each grower must be governed by the value to be added to his crop and the expense necessary to add such value.

"It is an important question, and should be well considered by those interested in growing this little queen of berries."

\*\*\*

## TREATMENT OF IXIAS.

This is the way a Massachusetts gardener describes in *Gardening* his method of treating ixia bulbs:

For the past two winters we have grown a lot of these South African bulbs in a cool greenhouse, and they have proved eminently satisfactory, producing beautiful flowers of many shades on slender stems. The leaves are long, narrow and grass-like. I pot the bulbs in October, putting eight or ten of them into a six-inch pot, using a compost of sand, loam and leaf-soil, and potting firmly. The pots are then placed in a cool, shady place, and watered only very moderately; after the flower buds appear give a little more water. After blooming give them water and keep them growing as long as the leaves will stay green, but when they begin to get yellow give no more water; then lay the pots on their sides under the bench or elsewhere and keep quite dry till autumn, when the earth should be turned out of them and the bulbs picked up and repotted after the manner of the previous year.

\*\*\*

## THE COLUMBIAN RASPBERRY IN GEORGIA.

A lady in Georgia writes in regard to the Columbian raspberry as follows: "It has outgrown anything I ever saw. \* \* The berries were very large and of a delightful flavor."

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### BUILDING A MUSHROOM HOUSE.

The following method of building a house for mushroom growing is cheap, convenient and practical. Many persons are enquiring about raising mushrooms without any particular knowledge of the conditions necessary for their culture. The excellent manual by Wm. Falconer, "Mushrooms: How to Grow Them," is always advised, as giving reliable information on the subject. The present description of building a mushroom house was published in the *Rural New Yorker* some week since, and is worthy of reproduction here:

Though the growing of mushrooms has rapidly increased during the past five years, very few houses have yet been built for that sole purpose in this country, the supply still coming largely from beds formed under the benches of greenhouses, in cellars and outbuildings, or other odd corners. As the mushroom grows best in darkness, the essential conditions of culture being a friable soil full of fermenting vegetable matter, moderate moisture and a steady temperature between fifty and sixty-five degrees—it is apparent that an excavation in the soil of the proper form and size, covered with a tight roof, will best meet the requirements. Probably the least expensive form of mushroom house is modeled after the ordinary "even-span" greenhouse, substituting a board and paper, or shingle roof, in place of glass or sash. If the house is ten feet wide inside the walls, it will accommodate two ranges of beds of the convenient width of four feet, leaving a passage of two feet wide between; or it may be made eighteen feet in width, giving the two four-foot beds at the side an additional passage, and a center range of six feet.

The mode of construction is as follows: On a well drained site, dig out, to the depth of three or four feet, an excavation of the required width and length, keeping the soil near at hand to bank up the structure to the eaves when complete. For the ten-foot house, use posts nine feet long of locust, cedar or chestnut, and set them at least two and one-half feet deep in the bottom of the excavation, placing them about six feet apart along the sides. Along the top, which should be leveled off, a plate of 3x4-inch scantling is firmly spiked. The rafters are nailed to this plate, and should be cut about six feet long, which will bring the ridge in the middle something over three feet higher than the plate, thus securing ample pitch for the roof. Rafters should not be over four feet apart, and may be conveniently cut from 2x4-inch stuff. The roof may be covered with any material that will keep out water and cold. At intervals of thirty feet it is well to insert a hotbed sash, to admit sufficient light for getting about, though the mushrooms will develop as well in total darkness.



The sashes should be hinged or fitted to slide down for the purpose of ventilation when needed. From the surface of the ground to the eaves, outside, the building is best covered with two thicknesses of rough boards nailed to the posts, and then banked to the eaves with earth. A tight door at one end completes the building, after the opposite gable has been closed in and banked up.

A house of this height will accommodate three tiers of beds on a side; the lowest on the ground, the others above, like berths on a ship. The usual depth of mushroom compost is eight inches, on which is placed two inches of loam after the beds are spawned. This will give an available space of over twenty inches between the top of the bed when made up and the bottom of the next, if the benches are placed thirty inches apart. This will give sufficient room for making up beds and gathering the product. The benches are built in the usual manner of commercial greenhouse benches,—cheap 3x4-inch scantling, the bottoms being of inch boards, six inches wide, with a ten-inch board nailed in front. As the weight of a ten-inch layer of loam and manure compost is considerable, 4x4-inch uprights should be placed at four-foot intervals for the support of the double tier of beds.

While many elaborate plans, all more or less costly, of mushroom houses, both in frame and mason work, are offered in the treatises on the culture of this desirable esculent, it is doubtful if any are more practically adapted for the purpose than the cheap and simple structure herewith described. If well built it ought to last eight or ten years with but slight repairs and need not cost more than \$1 per running foot, if built in fifty or 100-foot lengths.

To grow mushrooms practically, it is necessary to maintain an average temperature of about 55°. To maintain this during cold weather, when mushrooms are most appreciated, some heating system will be needed; nothing is better than hot water for this purpose. From four to six runs of two-inch pipe, according to the rapidity of circulation, will be needed. The cost of the heating plant will very much exceed that of the mushroom house itself.

\*\*

#### HYACINTHS AND TULIPS FOR BEDDING.

A paper on the subject named in the above title, by Mr. J. B. Stevenson, and read before a gardener's association in England, is published by the *Journal of Horticulture*. Some portions of the paper are here reproduced:

We have very little to do with the cultivation of either the hyacinth or tulip beyond the preparation of the ground and planting them. We cannot add one single extra flower to the spike of a hyacinth or an extra flower to the tulip; that

is already done for us by the Dutch growers, who are very pleased to supply them to us by the hundred or thousand, ready grown.

There is no doubt with proper treatment we can increase the size of the individual flowers, and, also, we can preserve the greater portion of our bulbs for a second or even a third year's planting; but unless the flower spikes are cut off as soon as their beauty is past, abundance of water given for some time after, the foliage allowed to die down naturally before lifting, the bulbs and subsequent flowers will be very poor indeed, compared with good freshly imported ones. One thing I may mention here,—never mix the newly imported bulbs with the old ones, even if they are the same variety, because the old bulbs will be in flower a considerable time before the new. This may seem strange, but nevertheless it is a fact.

Hyacinths for bedding should be of good and distinct colors, and for an effective bed not more than three varieties must be used. Where the beds are small two colors are sufficient. It is not usual to associate other flowers in beds of hyacinths, but some of the narcissi or daffodils are occasionally planted alternately with them, and if mixed with light or dark blue, pink or crimson varieties the effect is very good. The beds may have an edging of some other plants round them, such as arabis, pansies or violas, and crocuses planted in a double line six or eight inches deep may remain as a permanent edging for years. \* \* \*

Tulips vary in height more than hyacinths, and are sometimes very erratic in their growth. I have seen some of them open their flowers close to the ground, and in a couple of days they have shot up six or eight inches. From their erect habit and scanty foliage they are well adapted for associating with other plants in beds, in fact they have a fine effect when planted thinly and carpeted with other plants. For instance, a bed of blue myosotis edged with white daisies, and planted with scarlet, pink or yellow tulips makes a fine display. Again, the pretty aubrietia edged with golden feather or daisies, and white, scarlet or yellow tulips over them, is not to be surpassed. Dwarf pink silene or yellow alyssum and pansies and violas form a capital carpet for tulips. Should you have a few dozen of mixed tulips that you hardly know where to

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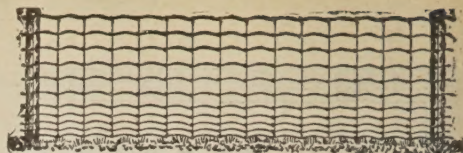
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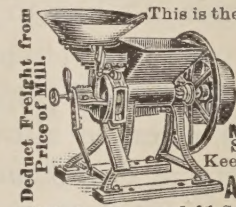
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plant, try them among a bed of wallflowers, not planting the wallflowers too thickly, and I am sure you will repeat it another year. \* \* \* \* \*

Tulips, when planted by themselves, should not be more than six inches apart; but when carpeted with other plants nine inches apart. Hyacinths may be planted seven to eight inches asunder, and four to six inches deep; the same depth for the tulips. In our light soils six inches is not too deep, but in a stronger soil four inches is enough.

The bed for hyacinths and tulips should have a good dressing of well-decayed manure (cow manure for preference), a dusting of soot, and the manure put in as deeply as possible when digging. It is hardly necessary to say anything regarding the planting, but for small beds the trowel is the best implement to use, placing the bulbs over the bed in the position required; but care should be taken to see that they are planted at an equal depth. For large beds I prefer the spade, marking off the beds with pegs, cutting out the trench with the spade, and planting the bulbs at an equal distance apart. In this part of the country it is not necessary to protect the beds after planting with a covering of litter or half-decayed manure. As soon as the bulbs appear the Dutch hoe should be used to loosen the soil, while staking will be necessary for some of the hyacinths and also for the double tulip Tournesol. As I remarked at the beginning of my paper, if the bulbs are to be made the best use of for other years cut off the flower spikes as soon as their beauty is past, and give an occasional soaking with water; liquid manure will not injure them. When the foliage has turned yellow, lift the bulbs carefully, lay them in a shady place, and when fully dry clean them and place on shelves in a cool room, examining occasionally to find and remove the decaying bulbs. I see in glancing over my paper that I have omitted the time of planting. The latter end of October and as early in November as possible is the best time.

\* \*

CAGED SONG BIRDS.

In a state of nature, says a writer in *Harper's Round Table*, small birds flit about and sing only during daylight, and always retire to rest at sundown. You must look out for this if you keep your birds in cages. They do not understand that they had better keep silent after the lamps are lighted. They instinctively keep on singing, as if it were still daylight. The immediate effect of this is that the birds become over-fatigued; they are apt to moult, grow thin, suffer from exhaustion, and quickly perish. The cage should be removed to a darkened room at nightfall; or, if this is not convenient, cover up the cage with a dark cloth before lighting the lamps. In covering the cage care should be taken so to

arrange the cloth that the bird can have plenty of air. In removing birds from one room to another it is important to see that there is no change in temperature. If removed to a different temperature there is a strong chance that they will begin to moult, which generally leads to something serious. Remember that Nature supplies a coat to suit heat or cold in which her creatures are placed, and that sudden and frequent changes in temperature are a severe tax upon a bird's vitality.

The object in the construction of a bird cage should be to furnish plenty of light and air, and the cage should always be kept perfectly clean. It is well to have a night covering of dark cloth, which should cover the top of the cage and extend halfway down the sides, as many birds are likely to take cold.

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